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T.L. AMENDED BELLWETHER COMPLAINT

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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
SAN FRANCISCO DIVISION

IN RE: UBER TECHNOLOGIES, INC.,
PASSENGER SEXUAL ASSAULT
LITIGATION

Case 3:23-md-03084-CRB

MDL No. 3084

Honorable Charles R. Breyer

JURY TRIAL DEMANDED

This Document Relates to:

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T.L. v. Uber Technologies, Inc., et al.,
No. 23-cv-9217

AMENDED BELLWETHER COMPLAINT AND DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL

Under PTO 21 (ECF 1950), Plaintiff files this Amended Bellwether Complaint against the Defendants named below. Plaintiff incorporates the allegations set out in the Master Long-Form Complaint filed at ECF 269 in *In re: Uber Technologies, Inc., Passenger Sexual Assault Litigation*, No. 23-md-3084 (N.D. Cal.).

I. DESIGNATED FORUM¹

1. Identify the Federal District Court in which the Plaintiff would have filed in the absence of direct filing: Northern District of California.

¹ See PTO No. 6, at II(C) (ECF 177).

1 **II. IDENTIFICATION OF PARTIES**

2 **A. PLAINTIFF**

3 2. *Injured Plaintiff*: Name of the individual sexually assaulted, battered, harassed,
4 and/or otherwise attacked by an Uber driver with whom they were paired while using the Uber
5 platform: T.L.

6 3. At the time of the filing of this Amended Bellwether Complaint, Plaintiff resides
7 at: Canton, Georgia

8 **B. DEFENDANT(S)**

9 4. Plaintiff names the following Defendants in this action.

10 ☒ UBER TECHNOLOGIES, INC.;²

11 ☒ RASIER, LLC;³

12 ☒ RASIER-CA, LLC.⁴

13 **C. RIDE INFORMATION**

14 5. Plaintiff was sexually assaulted, harassed, battered, and/or otherwise attacked by
15 an Uber driver in connection with an Uber ride in Canton, Georgia on October 29, 2023.

16 6. Plaintiff was the owner of the Uber account used to request the relevant ride.

17 7. Plaintiff ordered an Uber ride to go see a friend around 3:40 a.m.

18 8. The driver's name was **Raymond McKrow II**.

19 9. **Mr. McKrow had been driving for Uber for approximately three weeks when the**
20 **October 29 incident occurred.**

21 10. **When Mr. McKrow had applied to drive for Uber, his criminal background**
22 **included a 2012 Battery charge, for which he had been placed on probation, as well as a couple**
23 **traffic charges for speeding and following too close, and a couple drug-related charges.**

24 11. After picking Plaintiff up at about 3:47 a.m. on October 29, 2023, **Mr. McKrow**
25 **drove into a cul-de-sac with Plaintiff.**

26 _____
27 ² Delaware corporation with a principal place of business in California.

28 ³ Delaware corporation with a principal place of business in California.

⁴ Delaware corporation with a principal place of business in California.

- 1 12. It was completely dark outside.
- 2 13. The doors were locked.
- 3 14. Plaintiff was petrified.
- 4 15. The driver got out of the car and opened the back door.
- 5 16. Plaintiff asked the driver if he was going to kill her.
- 6 17. He said “no.”
- 7 18. The driver got into the back seat and took Plaintiff’s pants off.
- 8 19. She had always been afraid of men and so was in shock.
- 9 20. She was a virgin.
- 10 21. The driver raped her and ejaculated on her stomach.
- 11 22. While the driver stopped and raped Plaintiff, Uber was receiving real-time GPS
- 12 data from the driver’s phone and the Plaintiff’s phone, showing that the driver had made an
- 13 unexpected stop and that the driver and Plaintiff were still together.
- 14 23. For 15 minutes, Uber received GPS pings showing that the driver and Plaintiff
- 15 were still at the same location, together, not moving.
- 16 24. Uber did not take any action.
- 17 25. The conduct described in the Master Long-Form Complaint and herein was a
- 18 substantial factor in causing Plaintiff to suffer economic and non-economic harm.

19 **III. CAUSES OF ACTION ASSERTED**

20 26. The following Causes of Action asserted in the Master Long-Form Complaint,

21 including all allegations in support, are adopted in this Amended Bellwether Complaint by

22 reference:

23 Check if Applicable	Cause of Action Number	Cause of Action
24 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	I	CLAIM B - NEGLIGENCE (excluding entrustment theory)
25 <input type="checkbox"/>	II	CLAIM C - FRAUD AND MISREPRESENTATION
26 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	III	CLAIM E - COMMON CARRIER’S NON-DELEGABLE DUTY TO 27 PROVIDE SAFE TRANSPORTATION
27 <input type="checkbox"/>	VI	CLAIM G.1 - VICARIOUS LIABILITY– EMPLOYEE
28 <input type="checkbox"/>	VI	CLAIM G.2 - VICARIOUS LIABILITY– APPARENT AGENCY

Check if Applicable	Cause of Action Number	Cause of Action
<input type="checkbox"/>	VII	CLAIM G.3 - VICARIOUS LIABILITY–RATIFICATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	VIII	CLAIM H - STRICT PRODUCTS LIABILITY – DESIGN DEFECT
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	IX	CLAIM H - STRICT PRODUCTS LIABILITY – FAILURE TO WARN
<input type="checkbox"/>	X	CLAIM H - STRICT PRODUCTS LIABILITY – PRODUCTS LIABILITY ACTS

IV. ADDITIONAL ALLEGATIONS IN SUPPORT OF VICARIOUS LIABILITY CLAIMS

27. Plaintiff alleges that Defendants are vicariously liable for the following intentional torts committed by the driver in addition to being vicariously liable for the driver's negligence.

28. **Assault and Battery.** The driver's conduct constituted an unlawful touching and a harmful and offensive contact.

29. **False Imprisonment.** The driver's conduct constituted the unlawful detention of Plaintiff, without her consent, whereby Plaintiff was deprived of personal liberty and freedom.

V. ADDITIONAL ALLEGATIONS IN SUPPORT OF PRODUCTS LIABILITY CLAIMS

30. **Safe Ride Matching.** Uber had the capability to, and did, [REDACTED]

31. At all relevant times, the Uber App automatically collected data on [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]. Uber had the capability to use data on [REDACTED]

1 32. Uber was aware that [REDACTED]
2 [REDACTED]. To that end, Uber [REDACTED]
3 [REDACTED]
4 [REDACTED]
5 [REDACTED]
6 [REDACTED]
7 [REDACTED]

8 33. Uber could have, but did not, [REDACTED]
9 [REDACTED]
10 [REDACTED]
11 [REDACTED]

12 34. [REDACTED]
13 [REDACTED].

14 35. Uber's failure to [REDACTED] is evident by the
15 fact that Uber [REDACTED]
16 [REDACTED]. Had Uber [REDACTED]
17 [REDACTED]
18 [REDACTED]

19 36. Had [REDACTED]
20 [REDACTED]
21 [REDACTED] Plaintiff would not have been sexually assaulted.

22 37. Alternatively, the Uber App should have warned Plaintiff that [REDACTED]
23 [REDACTED] a high risk of sexual assault.

24 38. **Gender Matching.** The Uber App was in a defective condition unreasonably
25 dangerous to users or consumers, including Plaintiff, because the Uber app was designed with an
26 algorithm that matched female passengers with male drivers and had no modification to allow
27 female passengers the option to be matched only with female drivers.

28

1 39. Uber tracks the rates of sexual misconduct and assault committed by its drivers
2 against its passengers and collects data on the gender of the driver and passenger involved in
3 those incidents. At all relevant times, Uber was aware that the risk of sexual misconduct or
4 assault is greater during Uber rides in which the driver is male and the passenger is female, like
5 the ride between the driver and Plaintiff. The risk of sexual assault associated with such pairings,
6 while known to Uber based on its internal data collection and analysis, was beyond that
7 contemplated by the ordinary user or consumer.

8 40. Uber could have, but did not, modify its matching algorithm on the backend to
9 give female passengers the option to select female drivers. Such a modification is feasible
10 because Uber has made such modifications in markets outside of the United States, such as Saudi
11 Arabia. Uber has not modified the code of the matching algorithm on the backend for the version
12 of the Uber App available in the United States market to allow for female Uber passengers,
13 including Plaintiff, to choose gender-matched rides.

14 41. Uber knew that a gender-matching option would have prevented assaults like the
15 one suffered by Plaintiff.

16 42. Had a gender-matching functionality been available, Plaintiff would have toggled
17 it on for the ride in question.

18 43. Use of the gender-matching option would have prevented her assault by her male
19 driver because Plaintiff never would have been in the car with this driver had a gender matching
20 functionality been toggled on and would, instead, have been paired with an entirely different
21 person.

22 44. **App-Based Ride Recording.** The Uber App was defective in its design because it
23 could have been, but was not, designed to trigger automatic video recording of rides and the time
24 period immediately around them, whether through using the camera already installed on a
25 driver's cell phone during Uber trips, or through an external device linked to the App.

26 45. The presence of cameras serves a deterrent function that significantly reduces and
27 prevents sexual assault and misconduct. Even the potential for a ride to be recorded serves a
28 deterrent function that significantly reduces and prevents sexual assault and misconduct.

1 46. Uber is aware that the presence of cameras serves as a deterrent function that can
2 and does significantly reduce sexual assault and sexual misconduct and, to that end, has explored
3 the use of recording functionalities for the Uber App. But these recording functionalities (even if
4 they were available during Plaintiffs' ride) are inadequately designed to address sexual assault or
5 sexual misconduct committed by drivers against passengers.

6 47. For example, Uber developers modified the code of the Uber App on the back end
7 to allow in-app video recording by the driver. That is, when toggled on by the driver, this
8 functionality allowed drivers to record internal footage of Uber trips using their phone's camera
9 as a dash camera.

10 48. In addition to making the feature optional, rather than automatic, Uber coded its
11 in-app video recording functionality so that all recordings are encrypted in the Uber App and
12 locally stored on the driver's cell phone, meaning that recordings cannot be obtained by Uber, law
13 enforcement, or any third party without the express authorization of the driver.

14 49. The result is that in-app video recording does not have any deterrent effect on
15 sexual assault or sexual misconduct by drivers against passengers because drivers exercise
16 absolute control over whether recording happens, and because drivers know that, even if the
17 technology is on, third parties cannot access the recordings.

18 50. Had the Uber App included automatic video monitoring of rides, by definition that
19 feature would have been engaged on Plaintiff's ride.

20 51. Automatic video monitoring would have deterred the driver from assaulting
21 Plaintiff.

22 52. **GPS Route Discrepancy Alerts.** Using its own internal data, Uber was aware at
23 all relevant times that the risk of sexual assault or sexual misconduct was greatest when a driver
24 goes off route, when a driver stops for an unusual amount of time, or when the driver and rider
25 stay in proximity after a ride has concluded. The increased risk of sexual assault associated with
26 these route deviations as well as the prevalence of their occurrence, were risks beyond that
27 contemplated by the ordinary user or consumer, who lacked access to Uber's internal data or
28 analytics.

1 53. The Uber App is designed to receive, track, and monitor GPS data from riders and
2 drivers at all times while using the Uber App. Uber monitors GPS data from both driver and rider
3 phones. Specifically, while in use, the Uber App ingests GPS location information and telematics
4 data from driver and rider phones, which its algorithm uses to Uber uses these data to, for
5 example, automatically direct the driver to the rider's location, and monitor the speed, braking,
6 and other driving maneuvers, as well as to predict route times.

7 54. The data Uber collects give it the capability to detect when a ride has deviated
8 from the expected route, including when a driver goes off route, when a driver stops for an
9 unusual amount of time, or when the driver and rider stay in proximity after a ride has concluded.

10 55. Uber could have, and should have, designed the App to use the GPS technology
11 that it already built into the app to automatically trigger safety alerts in the event of route
12 deviations, early stops, unusually long stops, or excessive time spent with a passenger at the
13 beginning or end of a route.

14 56. An appropriately-designed GPS Alert function would have triggered an alert
15 during Plaintiff's ride due to the excessive time spent in proximity with the driver during an
16 unexpected stop the driver made before the conclusion of the ride.

17 57. An appropriately-designed GPS Alert function would have prevented or lessened
18 the severity of Plaintiff's assault, including by deterring the driver from engaging in the assault in
19 the first place or summoning an intervention.

20 **WHEREFORE**, Plaintiff prays for relief and judgment against Defendants for economic
21 and non-economic compensatory and punitive and exemplary damages, together with interest,
22 costs of suit, attorneys' fees, and all such other relief as the Court deems proper. At this time,
23 Plaintiff does not seek injunctive relief, but reserves all rights to later seek such relief as
24 appropriate under Fed. R. Civ. P. 15(b)(2) and Fed. R. Civ. P. 54(c).

25 **JURY DEMAND**

26 Plaintiff demands a trial by jury as to all claims in this action.
27
28

1 Dated: March 14, 2025

/s/ Sommer D. Luther

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FILER'S ATTESTATION

I am the ECF User whose ID and password are being used to file this document. In compliance with Civil Local Rule 5-1(i)(3), I attest that the signatory above has concurred in this filing.

Dated: March 14, 2025

By: /s/ Annie M. Wanless
Annie M. Wanless